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### Native American Summit Helps Tribal Entrepreneurs in Southern Oregon

All the way from the nation's capital, [Mr. William H. Largent](#), SBA's Assistant Administrator for the Office of Native American Affairs, spoke to the tribal members at the Klamath Tribes Summit on 7 and 8 April 2008 at the Klamath Tribes Council Conference room in Chiloquin, Oregon. This was the first of hopefully many sessions in getting tribal members involved in small business entrepreneurship in servicing the forests and former tribal lands in South Central Oregon.



*William Largent*

Mr. Largent focused on both tribally owned entities and personally owned businesses to become HUBZone and/or 8a/SDB Certified firms working with Federal, State, and local Governments. Allied with Oregon State representatives and local county officials, the tribal members were able to see the benefits of providing products and/or services to government entities and the resulting potential economic growth. In addition, bid matchmaking opportunities were also provided with State of Oregon representatives from the Department's of Fish & Wildlife, Forestry, and Transportation along with the US Forest Service. Construction Prime Contractors were also seeking firms to provide services in Klamath County and beyond.



*Panel of Buyers*

Meanwhile, SBA's Business Development Specialist's Barbara Allen, Big Jim Steiner, and SCORE Counselor Howie Rubin of the SBA Portland District Office were signing firms up in the [Central Contractor Registration \(CCR\)](#) database, [HUBZone Applications](#), and the [Oregon Procurement Information Network \(ORPIN\)](#). This was the first time that a concerted effort was made to fully assist, en masse and one-on-one, the many folks in Southern Oregon, on the east side of the Cascade Mountain range, to get services under "Operation Long Arm."

This project recognizes that many small businesses that are over 200 miles away from the SBA District Office in Portland, and that outreach to those businesses using both the READYTALK communications system and "face-to-face" events like this are necessary to support the economy of Oregon and SW Washington. In recognition of the project, the Klamath Tribes Planning & Enterprise Department have provided a letter of praise to our efforts.

For more information on SBA Native American and Tribally Owned Business Assistance, contact Barbara Allen, Business Development Specialist at [barbara.allen@sba.gov](mailto:barbara.allen@sba.gov).

*For more information on all of SBA's programs and services, visit our website [www.sba.gov/or](http://www.sba.gov/or)*